

# 2007 NCLB HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHER UPDATE

Office of Professional Preparation Services  
May 23, 2007

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## HOUSSE OPTIONS EXTENDED

When Michigan submitted its Revised State Plan to address No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) and highly qualified teachers in July 2006, the plan stipulated that High Objective Uniform State Standards of Evaluation (HOUSSE) would be phased out after June 30, 2007. In September 2006, Secretary Spellings issued a policy letter that encouraged states to phase out the use of the HOUSSE options, but was not mandatory. **The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has decided to continue the use of HOUSSE options for teachers beyond June 30, 2007 under the following conditions:**

1. The teacher must have been employed with the local district prior to the first day of school in the 2002-03 school year, **and**
2. Only teachers who meet the following criteria can continue to use HOUSSE:
  - a. The teacher holds an elementary certification with a K-8 (all subjects) designation and is being reassigned to teach a departmentalized content subject in grades 6-8, or
  - b. The teacher holds a secondary certificate with a 7-8 (all subjects) designation and is being reassigned to teach a departmentalized subject in grades 7-8, or
  - c. The teacher holds an elementary or secondary certificate with a core content endorsement based on a minor for which he/she has not taken and passed the Michigan

- Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) content area exam, or
- d. Special education teachers, or
  - e. Alternative education teachers in accordance with the memoranda issued by the MDE dated October 25, 2005 and January 12, 2006.

Appropriate documentation of how the teacher has demonstrated that he/she is highly qualified must be maintained by the local district as previously required. It is the understanding of the MDE that **HOUSSE options will be eliminated with the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (NCLB).**

## PARAPROFESSIONALS

Paraprofessionals may continue to use the portfolio option under the following conditions:

- The paraprofessional was employed with the local district prior to the first day of school in the 2002-03 school year and the paraprofessional was employed as instructional support staff in a Title I school/building or in a Title I target-assisted program,

**OR**

- The paraprofessional was employed as instructional support staff in a **NON-**Title I school and the school is now receiving Title I funds supporting the program for which the paraprofessional is assigned.

Appropriate documentation of how the paraprofessional has demonstrated that

he/she has met the portfolio requirements must be maintained by the local district, as previously required.

It is the understanding of the MDE that HOUSSE options also will be eliminated for paraprofessionals with the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (NCLB). **The same would apply to the paraprofessional portfolio.**

The testing options of WorkKeys, MTTC Basic Skills, or ETS Parapro will remain in effect indefinitely for paraprofessionals who choose to or must meet the NCLB requirements.

### **MICHIGAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT**

The Office of Professional Preparation Services (OPPS) has implemented the Michigan Technical Assistance Project (MiTAP) to monitor the compliance of local districts with the NCLB highly qualified teacher requirements. The June 2006 Registry of Educational Personnel (REP) was used to identify the percentage of classes taught by highly qualified teachers in each district. In April 2007, independent monitors began visiting local districts that were the highest priority with regards to meeting the 100% highly qualified teacher requirements. These monitors are assigned to work with local districts in the various field services regions around the state. Monitors will review the MiTAP monitoring protocol with district staff, and request a corrective action plan. Monitors and OPPS staff will work with districts to offer technical assistance to develop strategies for addressing the highly qualified teacher issues.

All districts and PSAs will be required to complete the "Michigan Local Education Agency Highly Qualified Teacher Report and Assurances" document as part of the MiTAP. This document was mailed to schools May 18, 2007 and is available at: [www.michigan.gov/teachercert](http://www.michigan.gov/teachercert)

The following is the order of priority for providing technical assistance and the activities related to each:

First Priority: Less than 80% of highly qualified teachers (22 districts)

Second Priority: 80%-89% highly qualified teachers (76 districts)

Third Priority: 90-99% highly qualified teachers (407 districts)

Questions regarding MiTAP should be addressed to Ms. Krista Ried at 517/373-0699.

### **ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATIONS**

Confusion still exists surrounding the difference between the federal NCLB requirements for highly qualified teachers and Michigan state law (Michigan School Code).

A teacher who does not hold Michigan certification, endorsement, or authorization (permit) to be in a placement cannot gain highly qualified status. The first step in gaining highly qualified status must be appropriate state authorization to teach the subject area and grade level.

A district or PSA placing teachers in classes for which they do not have the appropriate authorization is out of compliance with Michigan School Code and may be subject to state aid penalties.

**\* As a point of clarification, all paraprofessionals working in education support positions, funded by Title I monies, (either school-wide or target-assisted) must have met the requirement of NCLB by June 30, 2006 or prior to placement in that position for the 2006-2007 school year. The rural school flexibility provision presented by the United States Department of Education in March 2004 only applied to teachers in those schools meeting the "rural" definition.**